



**National Black Chamber of Commerce**  
**1350 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 405, Washington DC 20036**  
**202-466-6888 202-466-4918fax [www.nationalbcc.org](http://www.nationalbcc.org) [info@nationalbcc.org](mailto:info@nationalbcc.org)**

October 24, 2006

The Honorable Kevin Martin  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *AT&T Inc. and BellSouth Corporation Applications for Approval of Transfer  
of  
Control*, WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear Chairman Martin:

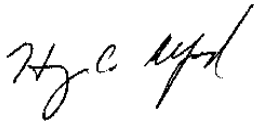
I am contacting you to express the National Black Chamber of Commerce's (NBCC) strong support for the Applicants' request for approval of transfer of assets. NBCC is the largest black business association in the world. The NBCC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian organization dedicated to the economic empowerment of African American communities. 190 affiliated chapters are locally based throughout the nation, as well as five international affiliates.

We note that three foreign countries, 18 state public utility commissions and the U.S. Department of Justice have approved the proposed AT&T/BellSouth merger, and all have concluded that it will produce significant public benefits. We are confident that the Federal Communications Commission's thorough review and record will compel the Commission to reach a similar conclusion and approve the merger. The companies offer as a proposed condition of the merger affordable and ubiquitous deployment of residential broadband within the AT&T/BellSouth territory. NBCC has a significant number of affiliated chambers within this territory. Many of these chamber members are residential based businesses that rely on the very broadband services that the Applicants are proposing to offer at an extremely competitive rate of only \$10 per month.

Broadband related innovations and communications provide the foundation for many businesses. Email, web access, streaming media, and cable television are just a few of the applications those businesses rely on day-to-day. Black owned businesses stand to benefit from this merger as both consumers and providers of services. The merged company will have the necessary capital to invest in building new networks. My members will have the opportunity to be part of that process from fulfilling contracts to build these new networks to providing the necessary products and services to the new competitors.

For the tremendous advances in broadband and communications delivery that our nation stands to gain, please move forward with the expeditious approval of the Applicants' request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H.C. Alford", written in a cursive style.

Harry C. Alford  
President & CEO

cc:

Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner

Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner

Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner

Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary